



HOT SPRINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY
HOT SPRINGS, MONTANA 59845

CORPORATE OFFICE

(406) 721-0846 • Fax 542-5434 • P.O. Box 17740 • Missoula, MT 59808

March 16, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Hot Springs Telephone Company

Re: Forbearance Notification

WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Hot Springs Telephone Company (Hot Springs; SAC 482241) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Hot Springs is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Montana. The Company elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM. The Company does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Name*: Hot Springs Telephone Company

2. *ETC Designation Information*

a. *ETC Designation Order*: Department of Public Service Regulation, Public Service Commission of the State of Montana; Request of Hot Springs Telephone Company For

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier *et al.*; Utility Division Docket D96.2.18; Order 6005a; Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carriers and Waiving Requirement to Provide Toll Control; December 16, 1997.

- b. *Designating Authority:* Montana Public Service Commission
 - c. *Type of Designation:* High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
 - d. *Date of ETC Designation:* December 16, 1997
3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance:* The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Hot Springs is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Company's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM.
4. *Date and Reason for Change:* Hot Springs received its first A-CAM support payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband:* Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Hot Springs is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 406-721-0846 or kathe_ann@yahoo.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Kathe A. Johnson
Treasurer